

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

Meeting of Thursday, March 4, 2010

5:15 p.m.

Cabinet Room, Department of Education  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South Wing, Townsend Building

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Marilyn Dollard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, David Kohan, Gretchen Pikus, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, Karen Schilling-Ross, Kathleen Thomas and Juanita Wilson

**Members Absent:** Samtra Devard, Lori Hudson, Jill Lewandowski, and Wendy Murray

**Others Present:** Charlie Michels, PSB Executive Director; Pearl Carrington, PSB Secretary; Judi Coffield, Policy Analyst for the State Board of Education, John Hindman, Deputy Attorney General, Deborah Stevens, Delaware State Education Association, and Susan Hoffmann and Loretta Newsome from the Delaware School Nurses Association.

### I. Opening:

**Call to Order:** Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Ms. Pikus and seconded by Dr. Greaves to approve the Agenda. The motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Kohan and seconded by Ms. Gordon to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2010. The motion carried.

### II. Public Comment

No comments

### III. DOE Report

No report.

### IV. Executive Director's Report

- **Race To The Top:** Mr. Michels reported that the State of Delaware was among finalists named to receive grants in the first screening phase of the federal government's *Race To The Top* program. Fifteen states and the District of Columbia were selected as finalists, and will head to Washington later this month to present their proposal to a review panel that will further narrow the final list to the 'winners'. These interviews will take place during the week of March 15th. The final decisions will be announced in early April. The DE DOE is feeling very optimistic about Delaware's chances.
- Mr. Michels stated that DOE has a new Associate Secretary for Teaching and Learning; Dr.

Linda Rogers. Dr. Rogers' start date is scheduled for March 8, 2010.

- **DESS:** Mr. Michels stated that he has volunteered to help again this year with the screening and selection process of the Department's Delaware Education Support System's (DESS) Distinguished Educator Program.
- **Turn Around Schools:** Mr. Michels reported that the process for selecting those schools to participate in Partnership Zones will be made over the summer. The DOE is collecting a variety of data for review which will be followed by further review by Secretary Lowery. Upon selection of the 4 – 6 schools, the DOE will engage in conversations with the local education associations and districts to facilitate a Memo of Understanding (MOU) for the turn around process. If during the negotiations no MOU is reached, the Secretary of Education has the authority to make the final decision regarding the path forward.
- **Regulation 1505 and '15 hours of professional development':** After numerous conversations with Department's Teacher and Administrator Quality Development Workgroup staff, Dr. Barton and Dr. Owens, Mr. Michels drafted a minor amendment to regulation 1505 Standard Certificate. The amendment allowed for the Department to make the final decision in professional development choices for those individuals coming from outside of a teacher preparation program or those wishing to add an additional certificate in areas without Praxis II exams or a course count. Upon review by the DOE Leadership Team (formerly known as the Cabinet), it was communicated to Mr. Michels that the Team consented to the change.
- **Regulation 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License:** Mr. Michels reported that the DOE Leadership Team had no issues with the minor revisions to this regulation, which included specifying responsibilities for educators with expired Continuing Licenses from zero to three years and an amended version of the definition of 'teaching experience'.
- **1582 School Nurse:** The DOE Leadership Team endorsed maintaining the Bachelors of Nursing educational requirement for School Nurses.
- **Administrative Standard Certificates:** Mr. Michels met with a group representing all three of DE higher education institutions that provide educational leadership programs, Dr. Jackie Wilson from UD and Dr. Joe Murphy of Vanderbilt University. The conversations surrounded considerable dialog regarding the current administrative certifications and their present requirements and how they might be amended to better prepare school and district leaders. Mr. Michels took copious notes and will present drafts to this group in the near future prior to sharing with the PSB.
- **Alternative Certification Routes for Administrators:** Mr. Michels indicated that he had received, literally within the hour a draft copy, authored by the Governor's staff and DOE, for an amendment to DE Code in order to facilitate alternative routes to certification for building principals and superintendents. Mr. Michels has been asked to review the language and provide further input. It appeared that a change in Code would subsequently necessitate a change in PSB regulation 1507 ARTLCP. More information will be provided to the Board in April.

- **NBPTS:** Mr. Michels announced that the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is well on their way to finalize the process for awarding a NBPTS certification for accomplished principals. Mr. Michels attended a focus group meeting consisting of broad-based membership of DE educators, which looked at implications and possible ways to promote the program in the First State. Mr. Michels will keep the PSB informed on the NBPTS progress. As part of the conversation with the Board, Mr. Michels will draft a potential letter supporting this innovative NBPTS certification and present it to the Board in April for their review.

## **V. Action Items**

- A. 1560 Art Teacher, 1563 Music Teacher and 1564 Physical Education Teacher:** Mr. Michels stated that there was a discussion on all three regulations last month by both the PSB and the State Board of Education with no additional concerns shared, nor written comments received. Mr. Michels requested of the Board a vote to Approve. Dr. Rouser moved and Dr. Greaves seconded a motion for Final Approval of 1560 Art Teacher, 1563 Music Teacher and 1564 Physical Education Teacher. The motion carried.
- B. 1503 Educator Mentoring:** Mr. Michels stated that some small suggested changes to 1503 had been made after the February 4, 2010 PSB meeting, including a few amendments to Section 2 Definitions. The DOE Leadership Team had previously given their assent of the proposed changes. After a brief discussion, Dr. Greaves moved and Mr. Kohan seconded a motion to approve 1503 Educator Mentoring for Publication. The motion carried.
- C. 1582 School Nurse**  
Mr. Michels shared a few written comments he had received since the last PSB meeting and pointed out a few small amendments. After a brief open discussion and several minor edits, Mr. Michels stated the regulation was before the PSB for approval to Publish. Ms. Dollard moved and Ms. Wilson seconded a motion to Publish 1582 School Nurse as presented with the edits. Upon a less than unanimous verbal vote, Mr. Michels requested a Roll Call Vote be taken.

### **Roll Call Vote**

Dr. Casson	Yes
Ms. Christian	No
Ms. Dollard	Yes
Ms. Gordon	Yes
Dr. Greaves	Yes
Mr. Kohan	Yes
Ms. Pikus	Yes
Ms. Price	Yes
Ms. Ross	No
Dr. Rouser	Yes
Ms. Wilson	Yes
Ms. Thomas	Yes

The motion carried with ten yes votes and two no votes.

**D. 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License**

Mr. Michels shared his rationale for a few additional amendments to the regulation that he felt needed to be addressed. After a brief discussion Ms. Pikus moved and Ms. Dollard seconded a motion to Publish 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License as presented. The motion carried.

**VI. Discussion**

**A. 1583 School Psychologist**

Mr. Michels introduced 1583 School Psychologist to the PSB. He stated that this regulation is being reviewed as part of the five year review process. The regulation minimally needs to be reformatted notwithstanding any additional amendments. After open discussion regarding the standing pathways for certification, Mr. Michels was requested to proceed with further research.

**B. 1584 School Social Worker**

Mr. Michels introduced 1584 School Social Worker as part of the five year review process. Ms. Christian suggested that the PSB postpone serious conversations, as the General Assembly is looking closely at the definition of Social Worker which could have implications relative to this Standard Certificate. Mr. Michels stated that he will make the necessary Legislative contacts.

**VII. PSB Standing Committees**

**A. Licensure and Certification Criteria**

The Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee had not met.

**B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation.**

The Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee had not met.

**VIII. Other**

*(None)*

**IX. Public Comment**

*(None)*

**X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Pikus and seconded by Dr. Greaves to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

**During the course of this meeting, the Professional Standards Board may enter into Executive Session to consider strategy with respect to pending and potential litigation or with respect to personnel issues. The Professional Standards Board may also take breaks.**

**The times designated on the agenda are approximate and are listed for administrative purposes only. The Professional Standards Board reserves the right, pursuant to Section 10004(e) of the Freedom of Information Act, to hear any matter out of its order during the meeting.**